Preschool–Grade 6

Joshua, Caleb and the Twelve Spies

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God is with me, so I can be brave.
Bible passage: Numbers 13–14. Read Numbers 13:17–14:10 and 14:24, 30 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "Be strong and of a good courage" *Joshua 1:9 (KJV)*. The old words **of a good courage** mean brave.
You need: a Bible, a yardstick or broom handle with a bunch of paper grapes taped to its middle, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: tape the paper grapes to the middle of the yardstick. Put a bookmark in your Bible at Numbers 13.

1. Opening game: Carry the Grapes (5 minutes)

Two children hold the yardstick, one at each end, with the grapes hanging in the middle. They walk together across the room and hand it to the next two. Say: "Carry it together, nice and slow!" Play until everyone has had a turn. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a bunch of grapes so big, two men carried it on a pole!"

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Numbers 13. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

God said, "Send thou men, that they may search the land" (Numbers 13:2). *(Point far away.)*
Moses sent twelve men (13:4–15). *(Hold up ten fingers, then two more.)*
They walked and looked (13:21). *(Walk in place, hand over your eyes.)*
They found big grapes. Two men carried them on a pole (13:23)! *(Pretend to carry a heavy pole.)*
The land was good, with milk and honey (13:27). *(Rub your tummy.)*
But the people there were big and strong (13:28). *(Stand on tiptoe and stretch up.)*
Ten men said, "we were in our own sight as grasshoppers" (13:33). *(Crouch down small.)*
Caleb said, "We are well able" (13:30). *(Show strong arms.)*
Joshua and Caleb said, "The LORD is with us: fear them not" (14:9). *(Point up.)*
Say it with me: "God is with us!"
God said Caleb "followed me fully" (14:24). *(Walk in place behind a leader.)*
Joshua and Caleb would go into the land (14:30). *(March in place.)*
Say it with me: "I can be brave!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What did two men carry on a pole? *(A big bunch of grapes, Numbers 13:23)*
2. What did ten men say they felt like? *(Little grasshoppers, 13:33)*
3. Who said, "The LORD is with us"? *(Joshua and Caleb, 14:6–9)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God said, 'Be strong and of a good courage.' **Of a good courage** means brave." Teach the motion: show strong arms on "Be strong," then put your hands on your hips and stand tall on "of a good courage." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Joshua 1:9" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! God is with you. Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: The Big Grapes (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a long brown pole. Then they draw a big bunch of purple grapes hanging from it. Say: "The grapes were so big, two men carried them!" While they color, ask: "Who is with you? Can you be brave?" Kids who finish early can play Carry the Grapes again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for being with me.
Help me be brave. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving. If they get wiggly, do the giant and grasshopper motions again. Leave out the angry crowd, the forty years and what happened to the ten men; those are for older kids. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks about the giants: the Bible says the men saw the giants, the sons of Anak (Numbers 13:33). Joshua and Caleb were not afraid, because God is bigger than anyone (14:9).

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